

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 06530 141854Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 DHA-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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O 141801Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2612

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 6530

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CO
SUBJECT: LETTER AND PRESS INTERVIEW BY MAJOR FERRE ON
CABRANES CASE STIR CONTROVERSY

1. THE CABRANES CASE CAPTURED NEW PRESS ATTENTION AND CAUSED INCREASED PUBLIC COMMENT FOLLOWING LAST WEEK'S PRESS STORIES ON THE SUBJECT (BOGOTA 6339) WITH A LETTER AND PRESS INTERVIEW BY MAJOR FERRE ON THAT SUBJECT.

2. LEADING BOGOTA DAILY EL TIEMPO OF JULY 13 CARRIED FRONT PAGE LEAD ARTICLE HEADLINED "MIAMI MAYOR TERMS COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT CYNICAL." ARTICLE CONTAINS LETTER FROM MAJOR FERRE TO EL EIEMPO MANAGING DIRECTOR WHICH FIRST TAKES GOC TO TASK FOR DENYING ASYLUM TO A CUBAN SEAMAN, AND GOES ON TO CRITICIZE GOC FOR "PLACING OBSTACLE" TO APPOINTMENT OF CABRANES. FERRE THEN STATES THAT AT JUNE 28 BANQUET AT WHITE HOUSE WHICH FERRE ATTENDED, HE HEARD PRESIDENT AND MRS. CARTER "COMMENTING ON THE SERIOUS ERROR WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA COMMITTED NOT TO HAVE ACCEPTED WITH MORE WARMTH" CABRANES' APPOINTMENT.

3. EL TIEMPO OF JULY 14 IN AN EDITORIAL COMMENT ON FERRE'S LETTER DEFENDED GOC'S DECISION TO DELAY AGREEMENT TO CABRANES AS CAUSED NOT BY CABRANES' "RACIAL ORIGEN" BUT RATHER BY ITS
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DISPLEASURE OVER FORMER US AMBASSADOR SANCHEZ WHO, THE EDITORIAL STATES, "FOR A THOUSAND REASONS" WAS AN UNFORTUNATE CHOICE.

4. CONSERVATIVE DAILY EL SIGLO OF JULY 14, IN AN EDITORIAL COMMENT, DESCRIBED THE FERRE LETTER TO EL EIEMPO "AN AFFRONT," SAID FERRE'S LANGUAGE "DEBILITATES" FRIENDLY US-COLOMBIAN

RELATIONS, AND REQUESTED AN OFFICIAL PROTEST.

5. TELEVISION AND RADIO PROGRAMS OF JULY 13 ALSO CARRIED STORY BASED ON FERRE'S LETTER TO EL TIEMPO. ONE RADIO NEWS PROGRAM REPORTED THAT "CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES," OTHERWISE UNNAMED, HAD CRITICIZED THE LETTER AND THAT "OTHER SOURCES" HAD CALLED FOR A "STRONG PROTEST" BY THE COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY.

6. IN THE MIDST OF THE CONTROVERSY CREATED BY FERRE'S LETTER, JULY 14 LIBERAL DAILY EL ESPECTADOR CARRIED AN INTERVIEW WITH FERRE ON THE CABRANES CASE, REPRINTED FROM CONSERVATIVE WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE GUION OF JULY 14. FERRE IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE GOC WAS NOT ALONE AT FAULT. "STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, BEGINNING WITH HIGH OFFICIALS OF THE US EMBASSY IN BOGOTA, INTERVENED NEGATIVELY, AND SIMPLY DID NOT DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE THE CONFLICT."

7. COMMENT/ THE PRESS INTERVIEWS AND LETTER HAVE FOCUSED NEW AND WIDESPREAD INTEREST ON THE CABRANES AFFAIR, WHICH IS EMBARRASSING TO BOTH THE USG AND THE GOC. THE SUBJECT HAS ALSO BECOME CONSTANT FARE AT MEETINGS AND SOCIAL GATHERINGS ATTENDED BY EMBASSY OFFICERS, ESPECIALLY THE NEW ALLEGATION THAT THE EMBASSY PLAYED A NEGATIVE ROLE IN THIS AFFAIR. ALSO, WE ARE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED THAT THE GOC HAS NOT YET REACTED PUBLICLY TO FERRE'S CHARGES AGAINST CONFIDENTIAL

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IT, GIVEN THE PRICKLY NATURES OF PRESIDENT LOPEZ AND FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO. END COMMENT.
DREXLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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TAGS: SOPN, PDIP, CO, US, (FERRE, MARICE C), (CABRANES, JOSE A)
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